gas pipeline from the Western offshore to the Southern region has been approved in principle. The proposal envisages the use of surplus gas from the Western offshore. This is also proposed to be supplemented by imported LNG and possibly pipeline imports of natural gas from the Middle East. There were reports that references were made to Southern Gas Grid in a meeting of Southern Chief Ministers.

Loan from Exim Bank of Japan to ONGC

4080. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Export-Import Bank of Japan has agreed to provide an united loan of 22,525 million yen to the ONGC to finance a flare gas reduction project as reported in the Economic Times, New Delhi dated 29th July, 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when the deal is likely to be finalised; and

(c) when the flare gas reduction project likely to be commissioned indicating the present rate of flaring of gas from Bombay High and the total quantity thereof likely to be saved annually by this Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The loan agreement was signed on 28th July, 1993. It is proposed to finance through this loan the foreign currency expenditures of the project for expansion of shore terminal facilities at Hazira, which is a component of the Gas Flaring Reducion Project (GFRP).

(c) The GFRP is expected to be completed in phases from April 1994 to February 1996. After completion of the project, the availability of gas is projected to be about 55 MMSCMD from the present level of around 36 MMSCMD.

Reduction in the gas supplied to Kakinada and Jegurupadu Power Projects

4081. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India reduced gas allocation by about 50 percent out of 1.5 MCMD gas to each of Kakinada and Jegurupadu Gas-based Power Projects in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what are the reasons therefor?

(c) when the full allocation of gas will be restored; and

(d) when will the Government of India take steps for legally enforceable fuel supply to the Two Power Units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The reduction was necessitated by the reduced availability of gas from the K. G. Basin.

(c) Restoration may be considered if and when the availability of gas increases.

(d) Gas supply contracts have been signed with both the units.

Madras Refineries Limited Project

4082. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of Madras Refineries Limited's projects for setting up of an AROMATIC COMPLEX in the Joint Sector at Madras; and

(b) whether the project is on schedule and by when it will be completed and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Aromatic Complex in the Joint Sector originally scheduled to have been completed within 33 months from May, 1992, the date of the project clearance by Government is likely to be delayed in view of the late agreement between the Joint Venture Company and the process licensor.

Delay in supply of equipment to major projects

4083. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been inordinate delays in supply of equipment to the major projects i.e. Ravva, Panna, Neelam and L-III projects;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in supply of equipment which companies are responsible for it and what action Government have taken against them;

(c) what are the details of progress made so far in respect of each project;

(d) to what extent, the delays have affected the targets of crude oil production in each project;

(e) when each of the project is likely to be completed and at what cost; and

(f) what steps Government and Oil and Natural Gas Commission have taken for expediting the progress of each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) There have been some delays in the case of Panna and the Ravva projects.

(b) The main reasons were the delayed fabrication of platforms and delayed placement of orders by HSL.

(c) to (e) Ravva is likely to be comleted by end 1993, Neelam and Panna by mid 1994 and L-III by end 1994. The estimated costs of these projects are Rs. 158.58 crores, Rs. 3541.85 crores, Rs. 161.12 crores and Rs. 4751.80 crores, respectively. Loss of production at Ravva due to delays is estimated to be around 0.1 MMT.

(f) Close monitoring and review at the senior management level of ONGC.

Off-shore gas fields

4084. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of natural gas available in the off-shore gas fields; and

(b) what is the quantum of natural gas allotted to Gujarat for Power/industrial projects separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) 36 MMSCMD of Natural Gas is currently being produced from the offshore gas fields.

(b) Allocations to the extent of 7.55 MMSCMD and 6.31 MMSCMD have been made respectively to the Power and Industrial sectors in Gujarat.

Production and distribution of gas in Gujarat

4085. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 84 given in Rajya Sabha on 8th July, 1992 and state:

(a) what is the quantum of non-associated gas produced in Western off-shore region and Western on-shore region (Gujarat) and where this gas is distributed; and details thereof;

(b) whether it is being considered that Western shore gas which is transported through HBJ pipeline may be allotted on temporary basis to gas based Uran power house; and

(c) whether it is possible to stop or control flaring of the gas and spare that gas for Uran power house through adequate compression, dehydration and transportation for gas in the Bombay off-shore region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The current production of non-associated (free) gas from Western offshore and on-shore is 22.81 & 3.02 MMSCMD respectively. The gas from off-shore fields is distributed through Uran and Hazira. The gas from on-shore fields is distributed in Gujarat.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The supply to Uran power house is adequate at present.

Observance of CVC on the safety norms of laying pipelines

4086. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Vigilance Commission in its inspection report observed that ONGC is quite lax in following the safety norms for laying oil and gas pipelines;

(b) if so, the details of the observations;

(c) what is the reaction of Government in regard thereto; and

(d) whether this is also a reason for the pipeline rupture in Bombay High?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Chief Technical Examiner, Central Vigilance Commission, while inspecting the works pertaining to laying of oil & gas pipelines at Gandhar during Nov. 1990 had made certain observations on the quality of work/material and delay in laying of pipelines. These relate to absence of Sand Cushion between the bottom of the pipeline and trench; lack of continuous support to the